

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature is the creative process of human language in order to fulfill the desire of human being to use their language creatively. An art covers the ideas, feelings, values and vision of humanity in the world around us. The works of art that may be comprised under the general heading literature are prose, drama and poem. Literature brings some values through our lives and helps us to understand our selves better. It conveys moral lesson like truth, wisdom and humanity. Literature makes those moral lessons easy to understand because they usually use beautiful language as implementation of our lives. But here sometimes literature does not use common language like in poem. The language of poem is truly hard to understand.

Between poetry and other form of imaginative language, there is no sharp distinction. Perrine (1977: 9) says, “The difference between poetry and other literature is only one degree”. It means that poetry have a little differentiation from the language of drama or prose in way to send the message. Poem expresses the idea in line by using diction, figure of speech, imagery, rhyme, and rhythm, sound and meaning pattern tone as the element of poem. We can see that sometimes the

language used in poem is more complex in meaning and sometimes symbolic. The meaning offered is not as clear as meaning of prose or even drama.

The language of poetry is different from ordinary language that we use in our daily communication that gives straight meaning or simple meaning (denotation) of some information. Poetic speech has plastic character that enables the reader to interpret a multi dimensional meaning from what it literally stated. Volve (in Siswantoro, 2002: 3) says that poetry is perhaps the most difficult kind of language. Poems sometimes are fully symbolic. Many poems use symbol to make it more interesting. Pierce (in Santosa, 1990: 11) stated that symbol is something that does it functions as signifier by the conventional law that is commonly used in society.

Symbol is one of semiotic study that represents what are behind some words, phrases, or pictures. In literature, it is one of interesting fields of study. Many literary works are written by using symbol. It makes the reader think what that means and what the writer wants to say with those symbols. Symbol is something that is interesting to analyze because we will know the meaning behind the symbol and it make us interpret what the symbol wants to tell. In our surrounding, we might see so many symbols to find what their meanings are. In literature, there are sometime symbols, which create curiosity that will make them interesting.

Symbol is one of sign modes that need creative translation. Pierce (in Santosa, 1990: 12) says that symbol shows the relation between sign and signifier in arbitrary characteristics. The reader must find out the relation between the signifier creatively and dynamically, because it is sometimes influenced by the cultural situation and condition. It becomes interesting because the poem is actually full of imagination and symbols sometimes are not clear enough.

In this research, the writer wants to focus on the symbols used in Gerard Manley Hopkins's poems. Gerard Manley Hopkins is one of Victorian poets whose poems are deeply religious. All of his poems have never published until his death. Hopkins is therefor the poet who bridges the century and carries Victorian doubt to the other side of the First World War and into modernism. Hopkins was highly original poet bringing a new energy into his wrestling with doubt, sensuality, and the glories of nature. Although his anguish is very similar to George Hebert's, Hopkins is negotiating with a God who must exist, but can only truly be seen in nature.

Glory be God for dappled things (Pied Beauty)

His major single poem is *The Wrecks of the Deutschland* (1876), inspired by the deaths among five nuns.

*Five! The finding and sake
And chipper of suffering Christ.
Mark, the mark is of man make*

*And the word of it sacrificed.
But he scores it in scarlet himself, on his own bespoken.
Before-time-taken, dearest prized and priced-
Stigma, signal, cinquefoil token
For lettering the lamb's fleece, ruddying of the rose-flake.*

Many of Hopkins sonnets take the bound of human suffering to level not attempted since Shakespeare words "Nothing will come of nothing" find an echo in Hopkins no worst there is none. But Hopkins reject rather that indulges in the negative emotion of despair.

Hopkins rejects the ultimate despair because he continues to believe in the existence of God. But his doubts are radical doubts. He questions a world in which right and wrong appear to him to be reversed. In the poem "Thou art indeed just, Lord" he takes this question directly to God.

*Thou art indeed just, Lord, if contend
With thee; but, sir so what I plead I just.
Why do sinners' ways prosper? and why must
Disappointment all I endeavour end?*

This is poetry in the tradition of metaphysical poetry of John Donne and George Herbert. It is sensuous and intensely spiritual in some poem, involves the description of the violent emotion. In a sequence of sonnet written between 1885-1886 and referred to as the 'terrible' or 'dark' sonnet Hopkins writes from the

deepest agonies of despair at world which is for him a spiritual wilderness. Indeed his exploration at times reveals wilderness emptiness within his own soul.

The honest statement of doubt and despair prefigured those of 20th century such as TS. Eliot and explain why his work become so influence on the literature of the modern period when it was published. But Hopkins also experimented and innovated in his poetry and influence many other poets' forms and technique. He believes that many object experiences or happening had his own unique pattern and much of his poetic technique aims to reveal that uniqueness or inscape. His sprung rhythm means that he exploits every aspect of language-sound, syntax, choice less of words (often dialect word) to render the precise nature of what he describe.

B. Literature Review

There are many studies about symbol, Semiotics but they are in Linguistics aspects, and the writer has not found any semiotics study that is done to analyze literature.

C. Problem Statement

In conducting this research, the writer is going to focus the observation on symbolism used in Gerard Manley Hopkins poems with the problem of this research as follow:

1. What are the symbols used in Gerard Manley Hopkins poems?
2. What are the meanings of symbol used in Gerard Manley Hopkins poems?

D. Objective of the Study

Based on the problem that have been stated above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To characterize the symbolism used in Gerard Manley Hopkins poems.
2. To find out the meaning of the symbol used in Gerard Manley Hopkins poems.

E. Limitation of the Study

In this study, the writer limits the study on symbolism of nine Gerard Manley Hopkins poems. There are, *Spring and Death*, *The Nightingale*, *The Caged Skylark*, *The Lantern out of Doors*, *The times are nightfall*, *look, their light grows less*, *I Wake and feel the fell of dark, not day*, *To his Watch*, *See how springs open with the disabling cold*.

F. Benefit of the Study

The study of symbolism of Gerard Manley Hopkins poems has several benefits they are:

1. Theoretically, to enrich the study of literature especially on Gerard Manley Hopkins poetry and its contribution for English department student particularly in learning poetry.

2. Practically, to conduct framework analysis for another student to study sign especially symbol in comprehensive as well as to improve student or the reader knowledge, particularly about Semiotics used to analyze poem in literature.

G. Research Paper Organization

The research paper consists of five chapters. The first is introduction that consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, and objective of the study also research paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory that consists of the theory that the writer used to analyze the object of research here the writer used Semiotic approach. The third chapter is research method, which consists of type of research, object of research, type and data source, technique of data collection, and technique of data analysis. The fourth chapter that is analysis that consist of data classification, data analysis and discussion of the finding. And the fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestion.